

Serial No. 09/981,106

Page 3 of 4

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Applicants amend the abstract of the disclosure for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure for including the word "said."

Applicants amend the abstract to replace "said" with "the," and to clarify the language.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0024931 to Chikazawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,291 to Araki.

Chikazawa et al. cited by the Examiner claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2000-264126, which was not published until March 15, 2002. As such, Chikazawa et al., which itself was not published until February 28, 2002, would qualify as prior art only under one or more of § 102(e), (f), and (g). And since Chikazawa et al. and the present application are both under obligation of assignment to Fujitsu Limited, Chikazawa et al. is not prior art and cannot preclude patentability of the present application, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 are patentable for at least the above-stated reasons.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

84112717_1

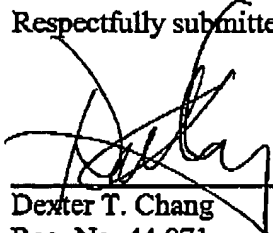
Serial No. 09/981,106

Page 4 of 4

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


Dexter T. Chang
Reg. No. 44,071

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-6384
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
Docket No.: 100794-11775 (FUJA 19.076)
DTC:bf

84112717_1